

A serene sunset scene with a thatched umbrella silhouette over a body of water. The sky is a gradient of deep purple and red, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a bright orange glow and a reflection on the water. The umbrella is a dark silhouette on the left side of the frame.

The Inner Peace Of Forgiveness

Building Bridges

Lu. 7:36-50

Lu. 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

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41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, **which of them will love him most?**

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, **to whom he forgave most**. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

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46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.**

48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.**

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**

Our theme this year is “*Building Bridges*.” A few weeks ago we began considering the construction of such bridges via RESPECT. Today we will begin looking at a different way to “*build bridges*,” and that is through *forgiveness*.

The Inner Peace of Forgiveness

Forgive – To grant pardon for or remission of (an offense, debt, etc.); absolve to give up all claim on account of; remit (a debt, obligation, etc.); to grant pardon to (a person); to cease to feel resentment against:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/forgive>

In our text, we see a beautiful picture of forgiveness and its relationship to love.

I. THE UNINVITED GUEST, 7:37a

Lu. 7:37a “And, behold, **a woman** in the city, which was a **sinner**, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house...”

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A. She was considered an outcast –
“...behold, **a woman... a sinner...**”

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is **none righteous, no, not one: ...**

23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died **for us**.

Jer. 30:17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; **because they called thee an Outcast**, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

B. She was considered out-of-place – “...in the Pharisee’s house...”

“...**when she knew that** *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house...”

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II. THE UNPRETENTIOUS GIFT, 7:37b-38

Lu. 7:37b “...brought an alabaster box of ointment,
38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.”

A. The cost was not important to her – “...an alabaster box of ointment...”

B. The cause was most important to her – a heart of humility, 7:38

Lu. 7:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.”

Lu. 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.**

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III. THE UNDERVALUATION OF THE GESTURE, 7:39

7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

A. The Consideration – “... **he spake within himself**, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him...”

B. The Condemnation – “...for she is a sinner.”

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IV. THE UNEXPECTED GUIDANCE, 7:40-46

A. The Lesson Presented, 7:40-42a

Lu. 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.
41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
42 “And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both...”

B. The Love Prioritized, 7:42b-43

Lu. 7:42b “...Tell me therefore, **which of them will love him most?**”
43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, **to whom he forgave most**. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

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C. The Lord is Pointed, 7:44-46

Lu. 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, **thou gavest me no water** for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

45 **Thou gavest me no kiss:** but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

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V. THE UNPARALLELED GRACE, 7:47-50

Lu. 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.**

48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.**

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**

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A. The Scars of a Sinful Past

Lu. 7:39 This man, if he were a prophet, would have known **who and what manner of woman *this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.***

Lu. 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many**

B. The Serenity of a Saved Present

Lu. 7:47b “...**are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.**”

Psa. 32:1 **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

Prov. 10:12b “...**love covereth all sins.**”

Phil. 4:7 And **the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

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SUMMARY

The inner thirst of peace for the souls of mankind cannot be appeased by the carnal emptiness of sin. The longing for peace is only found in the personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is our peace (Eph. 2:14.)

GOD IS HOLY

- All of mankind has sinned, transgressing God's Law.
- There is no inner peace for sinners apart from Christ.

Isa. 57:21 *There is **no peace**, saith my God, **to the wicked**.*

- Peace with God comes with faith in God, through Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

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Conclusion

- Jesus Christ became sin for us in order to reconcile us to God.

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

18 And all things *are* of **God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

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19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Col. 1:14 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

1 Jn. 1:9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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